

Dear Honorary Members of the Commerce Committee:

My name is Jill Alibrandi, 2 Old Redding Road, Redding CT. I am writing to you today to urge you to vote NO to HB5263. I was extremely disturbed to learn that the Department of Agriculture plans to allow a factory-like rabbit farm in CT for the purposes of food consumption. Have we not learned our lessons from Covid – and for that matter - Ebola, SARS, Avian Flu, Swine Flu, Mad Cow, just to name a few of the other deadly virus's that are a direct result of unnatural and invasive human to wildlife contact?

If you are just focusing on the economic gains, it is important to note that Whole Foods and other specialty stores have stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales. The multi-billion-dollar cosmetic industry has also been moving away from using rabbits and other animals in their testing programs due to consumer pressure.

While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, CT is taking a step backward in proposing this initiative. The State of CT should be promoting plant-based farms, not breeding and confining yet another sentient being for the purposes of human consumption.

Please do the right thing and vote NO to allowing this archaic factory farm into CT. We must do better.

Thank you for your time,

Jill Alibrandi

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